



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 110th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 153

WASHINGTON, FRIDAY, JUNE 29, 2007

No. 107

House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 10, 2007, at 2 p.m.

Senate

FRIDAY, JUNE 29, 2007

The Senate met at 9:45, a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable SHERROD BROWN, a Senator from the State of Ohio.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Almighty God, the giver of true freedom, as Independence Day draws near, awaken in us a new appreciation for our Nation, that we apply ourselves to keeping alive a real sense of liberty. Thank You for our Nation's Founders, their ideals, their principles, and their sacrifices. Thank You for the long procession of statesmen and patriots who have guarded our rights and healed our land.

Give our lawmakers a vision so pure that they will not endeavor simply to build on the sands of time but on the sure foundation of honor and right. Look with favor upon the leaders of our executive, judicial, and legislative branches, imbue them with the spirit of wisdom, goodness, and truth. So rule in their hearts and bless their endeavors that law and order, justice and peace may prevail everywhere.

We pray in Your sovereign Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable SHERROD BROWN led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, June 29, 2007.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable SHERROD BROWN, a Senator from the State of Ohio, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mr. BROWN thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, today the Senate will be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each. There will be no votes today. The next votes are expected to occur Monday, around 5:30; that is July 9.

As I said yesterday, the Senate will vote on the remaining four judicial nominations that are on the Executive Calendar. Also, on Monday, July 9, the Senate will begin consideration of the Defense Department authorization bill,

an extremely important bill for all of our military servicemembers in Iraq, Afghanistan, North Korea, and all over the world.

So when the Senate leaves today for the Fourth of July recess and returns on July 9, Members should expect a very busy legislative work period during the month of July.

DELAY TACTICS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, we have tried and tried and tried to get the Republicans to allow us to go to conference on ethics, on lobbying reform and also on the 9/11 Commission recommendations. They have prohibited us from doing that.

In the Senate, there are procedural blocks that can be placed on measures, and they have done that. They have done it for reasons that are fleeting in importance. We were ready to do ethics and lobbying reform, and someone stepped in and said: Well, I don't like the earmark provision, I want them to be handled some other way—a diversion, a dilatory tactic to stop this Congress from doing what it needs to do regarding lobbying and ethics reform.

Republicans are trying to stop reform. We have lived in a culture of corruption during Republican leadership. For the first time in 131 years, someone working in the White House is indicted, the man is now in prison, Scooter Libby. Safavian, head of Government contracting for the President, appointed by the President, handles billions of dollars for the Government contracting, he was led away from his office in handcuffs; he is now in prison.

The majority leader in the House of Representatives was convicted three

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



Printed on recycled paper.

S8731